

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS85437-LL-330 (5/14)

Short Title: Judicial Department Independence. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Clodfelter.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REFLECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
IN STATE BUDGET OPERATIONS, TO AUTHORIZE THE JUDICIAL  
DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT POSITION MANAGEMENT TO ALLOW FOR  
THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OVERALL OPERATION OF THE  
COURTS, AND TO ENSURE THE FISCAL INTEGRITY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 143C-1-2(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Reversions. – Unless otherwise provided by law, at the end of the fiscal year the unexpended, unencumbered balance of an appropriation reverts to the fund from which the appropriation was made; except that (i) an appropriation to the General Assembly shall not revert unless otherwise provided by the Legislative Services Commission, (ii) an appropriation to the Judicial Department shall not revert unless otherwise provided by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or the Director of Indigent Defense Services, as applicable, (iii) an appropriation for a capital improvement project shall revert as provided by G.S. 143C-8-11, and ~~(iii)~~ (iv) an appropriation for the implementation of information technology (IT) projects shall not revert until the project is implemented or abandoned."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 143C-6-4 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e1) Overexpenditures in the Judicial Department budget. – The Chief Justice may approve expenditures for more than was authorized in the enacted budget for objects or line items in the budget of the Judicial Department."

**SECTION 3.** Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 29B.

"Position Management.

1 **"§ 7A-360. Position management.**

2 After consultation with, and upon the advice of, the State Judicial Council, the  
3 Director may establish and abolish, and allocate and reallocate, all personnel positions  
4 within the Judicial Department so as best to meet the personnel needs of all Judicial  
5 Department hiring authorities and of the Administrative Office of the Courts and to  
6 assure the most effective and efficient overall operation of the Judicial Department. This  
7 authority is subject to the following limitations:

8 (1) The authority does not apply to the following positions:

9 a. Justices and judges of the General Court of Justice;

10 b. The Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the  
11 Courts provided for in G.S. 7A-340 and G.S. 7A-342;

12 c. Clerks of superior court provided for in G.S. 7A-100;

13 d. District attorneys provided for in G.S. 7A-60;

14 e. The Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Court of  
15 Appeals, the Supreme Court Librarian, the Supreme Court  
16 Marshall, the Appellate Reporters, and the Assistant Director of  
17 the Administrative Office of the Courts;

18 f. The executive directors of the Judicial Standards Commission,  
19 the Conference of District Attorneys, and the Sentencing and  
20 Policy Advisory Commission; or

21 g. Positions provided for in Article 39B of this Chapter (Indigent  
22 Defense) or otherwise funded from the Indigent Persons'  
23 Attorneys' Fees Fund;

24 (2) Positions for assistant and deputy clerks of superior court, magistrates,  
25 judicial support staff, assistant district attorneys, and prosecutorial  
26 support staff shall be allocated among the counties of the State  
27 according to the formula developed under G.S. 7A-343(2a);

28 (3) The magistrate positions for each county shall not be fewer than the  
29 minimum number specified for the county in G.S. 7A-133(c); and

30 (4) The assistant district attorney positions for a prosecutorial district shall  
31 not be fewer than the minimum number specified for the district in  
32 G.S. 7A-60.

33 **"§ 7A-361. Report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental**  
34 **Operations.**

35 On or before October 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Joint  
36 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations a detailed report of all  
37 expenditures made and other actions taken under this Article for the fiscal year ending  
38 June 30 of that year."

39 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7A-343 reads as rewritten:

40 **"§ 7A-343. Duties of Director.**

41 The Director is the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and the Director's duties  
42 include all of the following:

- 1 (1) Collect and compile statistical data and other information on the  
2 judicial and financial operation of the courts and on the operation of  
3 other offices directly related to and serving the courts.
- 4 (2) Determine the state of the dockets and evaluate the practices and  
5 procedures of the courts, and make recommendations concerning the  
6 number of ~~judges, judges and~~ district attorneys, ~~and magistrates~~  
7 attorneys required for the efficient administration of justice.
- 8 (2a) After consultation with, and on the advice of, the State Judicial  
9 Council, develop a workload-based methodology for the allocation of  
10 assistant and deputy clerks of superior court and magistrates among  
11 the counties of the State, for the allocation of assistant district  
12 attorneys among the prosecutorial districts of the State, and for the  
13 allocation of judicial support staff and prosecutorial support staff. In  
14 developing this methodology, the Director may take into  
15 consideration, among other things, prior personnel levels, growth in  
16 caseload volume and composition, population, the effect of technology  
17 on personnel needs, recommendations of appropriate State and  
18 national organizations and agencies specializing in determining the  
19 personnel needs of courts, and other relevant factors.
- 20 (2b) Establish and abolish, and allocate and reallocate, personnel positions  
21 within the Judicial Department.
- 22 (3) Prescribe uniform administrative and business methods, systems,  
23 forms and records to be used in the offices of the clerks of superior  
24 court.
- 25 (4) Prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations necessary  
26 for the maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, and  
27 authorize expenditures from funds appropriated for these purposes.
- 28 (4a) After consultation with, and on the advice of, the State Judicial  
29 Council, authorize expenditures from funds appropriated for the  
30 maintenance and operation of the Judicial Department, including  
31 specifying the uses, within the Judicial Department budget, of funds  
32 that remain available for expenditure at the end of each fiscal year  
33 under G.S. 143C-1-2(b), or revert such funds under G.S. 143C-1-2(b).
- 34 (5) Investigate, make recommendations concerning, and assist in the  
35 securing of adequate physical accommodations for the General Court  
36 of Justice.
- 37 (6) Procure, distribute, exchange, transfer, ~~and assign~~ assign and reassign  
38 such equipment, books, forms and supplies as are to be acquired with  
39 State funds for the General Court of Justice.
- 40 (7) Make recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the  
41 Judicial Department.
- 42 (8) Prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the Judicial  
43 Department to the Chief Justice, and transmit a copy to each member  
44 of the General Assembly.

- 1 (9) Assist the Chief Justice in performing his duties relating to the transfer  
2 of district court judges for temporary or specialized duty.
- 3 (9a) Establish and operate systems and services that provide for electronic  
4 filing in the court system and further provide electronic transaction  
5 processing and access to court information systems pursuant to  
6 G.S. 7A-343.2.
- 7 (9b) Enter into contracts with one or more private vendors to provide for  
8 the payment of fines, fees, and costs due to the court by credit, charge,  
9 or debit cards; such contracts may provide for the assessment of a  
10 convenience or transaction fee by the vendor to cover the costs of  
11 providing this service.
- 12 (9c) Prescribe policies and procedures for the appointment and payment of  
13 foreign language interpreters in those cases specified in  
14 G.S. 7A-314(f). These policies and procedures shall be applied  
15 uniformly throughout the General Court of Justice. After consultation  
16 with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations,  
17 the Director may also convert contractual foreign language interpreter  
18 positions to permanent State positions when the Director determines  
19 that it is more cost-effective to do so.
- 20 (9d) Analyze the use of contractual positions in the Judicial Department  
21 and, after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on  
22 Governmental Operations, convert contractual positions to permanent  
23 State positions when the Director determines it is in the best interests  
24 of the Judicial Department to do so.
- 25 (10) Perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as  
26 may be prescribed by statute or assigned by the Chief Justice."

27 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 7A-409.1(a) reads as rewritten:

28 "**§ 7A-409.1. Duties of the State Judicial Council.**

- 29 (a) The State Judicial Council shall:
- 30 (1) Study the judicial system and report periodically to the Chief Justice  
31 on its findings;
- 32 (2) Advise the Chief Justice on priorities for funding;
- 33 (3) Review and advise the Chief Justice on the budget prepared by the  
34 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts for submission to  
35 the General Assembly;
- 36 (4) Study and recommend to the General Assembly the salaries of justices  
37 and judges;
- 38 (5) Recommend to the General Assembly changes in the expense  
39 allowances, benefits, and other compensation for judicial officials;  
40 bills to implement such recommendations shall have the same status  
41 for introduction in the General Assembly as bills recommended by the  
42 Courts Commission;
- 43 (6) Recommend the creation of ~~judgeships; and judgeships;~~

(6a) Consult with the Director on, and advise the Director in, the performance of the Director's duties under G.S. 7A-343(2a) and G.S. 7A-343(4a); and

(7) Advise or assist the Chief Justice, as requested, on any other matter concerning the operation of the courts."

**SECTION 6.** G.S. 7A-7 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-7. Law clerks; secretaries and stenographers.**

(a) Each justice and judge of the appellate division is entitled to the services of ~~not more than two~~ research assistants, who must be graduates of an accredited law school. ~~The salaries of research assistants shall be set by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, subject to the approval of the Supreme Court.~~

(b) The Administrative Officer of the Courts shall determine the number and salaries of all ~~secretaries~~ secretaries, research assistants, and stenographers in the appellate division. division, as provided in Article 29A of this Chapter, and subject to the approval of the Supreme Court."

**SECTION 7.** G.S. 7A-44.1(a) reads as rewritten:

~~"(a) Each senior resident superior court judge may appoint a judicial secretary to serve at his pleasure and under his direction the secretarial and clerical needs of the superior court judges of the district or set of districts as defined by G.S. 7A-41.1(a) for which he is the senior resident superior court judge. The appointment may be full or part time and the compensation and allowances of such secretary shall be fixed by the senior regular resident superior court judge, within limits determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and paid by the State. Senior resident superior court judges may employ judicial secretaries when positions for them are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and compensation of the judicial secretaries for each district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a)."~~

**SECTION 8.** G.S. 7A-60(a1) reads as rewritten:

~~"(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district has the counties and at least the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following table: table. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may establish additional assistant district attorney positions for a prosecutorial district, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter.~~

Prosecutorial District	Counties	No. of Full-Time Asst. District Attorneys
1	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans	11
2	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington	7
3A	Pitt	11
3B	Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	12

1	4	Duplin, Jones, Onslow,	18
2		Sampson	
3	5	New Hanover, Pender	17
4	6A	Halifax	5
5	6B	Bertie, Hertford,	6
6		Northampton	
7	7	Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson	18
8	8	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	14
9	9	Franklin, Granville,	12
10		Vance, Warren	
11	9A	Person, Caswell	5
12	10	Wake	39
13	11	Harnett, Johnston, Lee	17
14	12	Cumberland	22
15	13	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus	13
16	14	Durham	16
17	15A	Alamance	10
18	15B	Orange, Chatham	10
19	16A	Scotland, Hoke	6
20	16B	Robeson	13
21	17A	Rockingham	6
22	17B	Stokes, Surry	7
23	18	Guilford	31
24	19A	Cabarrus	9
25	19B	Montgomery, Randolph	9
26	19C	Rowan	7
27	19D	Moore	5
28	20A	Anson, Richmond,	11
29		Stanly	
30	20B	Union	9
31	21	Forsyth	24
32	22	Alexander, Davidson, Davie,	20
33		Iredell	
34	23	Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes,	8
35		Yadkin	
36	24	Avery, Madison, Mitchell,	7
37		Watauga, Yancey	
38	25	Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	18
39	26	Mecklenburg	53
40	27A	Gaston	14
41	27B	Cleveland,	10
42		Lincoln	
43	28	Buncombe	13
44	29A	McDowell, Rutherford	7

1	29B	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	8
2	30	Cherokee, Clay, Graham,	11
3		Haywood, Jackson, Macon,	
4		Swain."	

5           **SECTION 9.** G.S. 7A-68(a) reads as rewritten:

6           "(a) Each district attorney shall be entitled to at least one administrative assistant  
7 to be appointed by the district attorney and to serve at his pleasure. The Director of the  
8 Administrative Office of the Courts shall determine the number and salaries of the  
9 administrative assistants for each district attorney, as provided in Article 29B of this  
10 Chapter. ~~The~~ An administrative assistant need not be an attorney licensed to practice  
11 law in the State of North Carolina."

12           **SECTION 10.** G.S. 7A-69 reads as rewritten:

13       "**§ 7A-69. Investigatorial assistants.**

14       ~~The district attorney in prosecutorial districts 1, 3B, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15A,~~  
15 ~~15B, 16A, 18, 19B, 20A, 20B, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27A, 27B, 28, 29A, 29B, and 30 is~~  
16 ~~entitled to one investigatorial assistant, and the district attorney in prosecutorial district~~  
17 ~~10 is entitled to two investigatorial assistants, to be appointed by the district attorney~~  
18 ~~and to serve at his pleasure. District attorneys may employ investigative assistants,~~  
19 ~~when positions for them are created by the Director of the Administrative Office of the~~  
20 ~~Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the~~  
21 ~~number and salaries of the investigative assistants for each district attorney.~~

22       It shall be the duty of the investigatorial assistant to investigate cases preparatory to  
23 trial and to perform such other Duties as may be assigned by the district attorney. The  
24 investigatorial assistant is entitled to reimbursement for his subsistence and travel  
25 expenses to the same extent as State employees generally."

26           **SECTION 11.** G.S. 7A-95(e) reads as rewritten:

27       "~~(e) Appointment of a reporter or reporters for superior court proceedings in each~~  
28 ~~district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall be made by the senior~~  
29 ~~regular resident superior court judge of that district or set of districts. The compensation~~  
30 ~~and allowances of reporters in each such district or set of districts shall be fixed by the~~  
31 ~~senior regular resident superior court judge, within limits determined by the~~  
32 ~~Administrative Officer of the Courts, and paid by the State. Senior resident superior~~  
33 ~~court judges may employ official court reporters when positions for them are~~  
34 ~~established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in~~  
35 ~~Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and compensation~~  
36 ~~of the official court reporters for each district or set of districts as defined in~~  
37 ~~G.S. 7A-41.1(a). Each official court reporter shall be appointed by the senior resident~~  
38 ~~superior court judge and shall serve at the judge's pleasure. An official court reporter~~  
39 ~~shall record and transcribe superior court proceedings in the district or set of districts for~~  
40 ~~which appointed, may be assigned by the Director to record and transcribe proceedings~~  
41 ~~in other districts or sets of districts, and shall perform other official duties assigned by~~  
42 ~~the senior resident superior court judge."~~

43           **SECTION 12.** G.S. 7A-102(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The numbers and salaries of assistant clerks, deputy clerks, and other employees in the office of each clerk of superior court shall be determined by the Administrative Officer of the Courts as provided in Article 29 of this Chapter, after consultation with the clerk concerned. All personnel in the clerk's office are employees of the State. The clerk appoints the assistants, deputies, and other employees in the clerk's office to serve at his or her pleasure. Assistant and deputy clerks shall take the oath of office prescribed for clerks of superior court, conformed to the office of assistant or deputy clerk, as the case may be. Except as provided by subsection (c2) of this section, the job classifications and related salaries of each employee within the office of each superior court clerk shall be subject to the approval of the Administrative Officer of the Courts after consultation with each clerk concerned and shall be subject to the availability of funds appropriated for that purpose by the General Assembly."

**SECTION 13.** G.S. 7A-133(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Each county shall have ~~the numbers of magistrates and~~ at least the number of magistrates, and the additional seats of district court, as set forth in the following ~~table:~~ table. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may establish additional magistrate positions for a county, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter.

County	Magistrates Min.	Additional Seats of Court
Camden	3	
Chowan	3	
Currituck	4	
Dare	6	
Gates	2	
Pasquotank	5	
Perquimans	3	
Martin	4	
Beaufort	5.05	
Tyrrell	3	
Hyde	3.5	
Washington	4	
Pitt	10.5	Farmville Ayden
Craven	10	Havelock
Pamlico	3	
Carteret	9	
Sampson	7	
Duplin	8	
Jones	2	
Onslow	11	
New Hanover	11	
Pender	4.8	



1	Halifax	12	Roanoke
2			Rapids,
3			Scotland Neck
4	Northampton	5.25	
5	Bertie	5	
6	Hertford	6	
7	Nash	9	Rocky Mount
8	Edgecombe	7	Rocky Mount
9	Wilson	7	
10	Wayne	9	Mount Olive
11	Greene	4	
12	Lenoir	7	La Grange
13	Granville	7	
14	Vance	6	
15	Warren	3.5	
16	Franklin	7	
17	Person	4	
18	Caswell	4	
19	Wake	18.5	Apex,
20			Wendell, Fuquay-
21			Varina,
22			Wake Forest
23	Harnett	10	Dunn
24	Johnston	11	Benson,
25			Clayton,
26			Selma
27	Lee	5.5	
28	Cumberland	19	
29	Bladen	5	
30	Brunswick	9	
31	Columbus	9.5	Tabor City
32	Durham	13	
33	Alamance	12	Burlington
34	Orange	9	Chapel Hill
35	Chatham	6	Siler City
36	Scotland	5	
37	Hoke	5	
38	Robeson	15	Fairmont,
39			Maxton,
40			Pembroke,
41			Red Springs,
42			Rowland,
43			St. Pauls
44	Rockingham	9	Reidsville,

1			Eden,
2			Madison
3	Stokes	5	
4	Surry	9	Mt. Airy
5	Guilford	24.4	High Point
6	Cabarrus	9	Kannapolis
7	Montgomery	5	
8	Randolph	10	Liberty
9	Rowan	9	
10	Stanly	6	
11	Union	7	
12	Anson	5	
13	Richmond	6	Hamlet
14	Moore	6.5	Southern
15			Pines
16	Forsyth	15	Kernersville
17	Alexander	4	
18	Davidson	10	Thomasville
19	Davie	4	
20	Iredell	9	Mooresville
21	Alleghany	2	
22	Ashe	4	
23	Wilkes	6	
24	Yadkin	4	
25	Avery	4	
26	Madison	4	
27	Mitchell	4	
28	Watauga	5	
29	Yancey	3	
30	Burke	6.75	
31	Caldwell	7	
32	Catawba	10	Hickory
33	Mecklenburg	26.50	
34	Gaston	17	
35	Cleveland	8	
36	Lincoln	6	
37	Buncombe	15	
38	Henderson	6.5	
39	McDowell	4.5	
40	Polk	4	
41	Rutherford	7	
42	Transylvania	4	
43	Cherokee	4	
44	Clay	2	

1	Graham	2	
2	Haywood	6.75	Canton
3	Jackson	5	
4	Macon	3.5	
5	Swain	3.75"	

6           **SECTION 14.** G.S. 7A-146 reads as rewritten:

7   **"§ 7A-146. Administrative authority and duties of chief district judge.**

8       (a) The chief district judge, subject to the general supervision of the Chief Justice  
9 of the Supreme Court, has administrative supervision and authority over the operation  
10 of the district courts and magistrates in his district. These powers and duties include, but  
11 are not limited to, the following:

- 12           (1) Arranging schedules and assigning district judges for sessions of  
13           district courts;
- 14           (2) Arranging or supervising the calendaring of noncriminal matters for  
15           trial or hearing;
- 16           (3) Supervising the clerk of superior court in the discharge of the clerical  
17           functions of the district court;
- 18           (4) Assigning matters to magistrates, and consistent with the salaries set  
19           by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, prescribing times and  
20           places at which magistrates shall be available for the performance of  
21           their duties; however, the chief district judge may in writing delegate  
22           his authority to prescribe times and places at which magistrates in a  
23           particular county shall be available for the performance of their duties  
24           to another district court judge or the clerk of the superior court, and the  
25           person to whom such authority is delegated shall make monthly  
26           reports to the chief district judge of the times and places actually  
27           served by each magistrate; ~~and~~
- 28           (5) Making arrangements with proper authorities for the drawing of civil  
29           court jury panels and determining which sessions of district court shall  
30           be jury sessions;
- 31           (6) Arranging for the reporting of civil cases by court reporters or other  
32           authorized means;
- 33           (7) Arranging sessions, to the extent practicable for the trial of specialized  
34           cases, including traffic, domestic relations, and other types of cases,  
35           and assigning district judges to preside over these sessions so as to  
36           permit maximum practicable specialization by individual judges;
- 37           (8) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 900, s.  
38           118(b), effective July 15, 1992.
- 39           (9) Assigning magistrates during an emergency to temporary duty outside  
40           the county of their residence but within that district; and, upon the  
41           request of a chief district judge of an adjoining district and upon the  
42           approval of the Administrative Officer of the Courts, to temporary  
43           duty in the district of the requesting chief district judge; and

1 (10) Designating another district judge of his district as acting chief district  
2 judge, to act during the absence or disability of the chief district judge.

3 (b) Chief district court judges may employ judicial secretaries when positions for  
4 them are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as  
5 provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the number and  
6 compensation of the judicial secretaries for each district or set of districts as defined in  
7 G.S. 7A-133(b)."

8 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 7A-198(f) reads as rewritten:

9 "~~(f) Appointment of a reporter or reporters for district court proceedings in each~~  
10 ~~district court district shall be made by the chief district judge for that district. The~~  
11 ~~compensation and allowances of reporters in each district shall be fixed by the chief~~  
12 ~~district judge, within limits determined by the Administrative Officer of the Courts, and~~  
13 ~~paid by the State. Chief district court judges may employ official court reporters when~~  
14 such positions are established by the Director of the Administrative Office of the  
15 Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The Director shall determine the  
16 number and compensation of the official court reporters for each district or set of  
17 districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a). Each official court reporter shall be appointed by  
18 the chief district court judge and shall serve at the judge's pleasure. An official court  
19 reporter shall record and transcribe district court proceedings in the district or set of  
20 districts for which appointed, may be assigned by the Director to record and transcribe  
21 proceedings in other districts or sets of districts, and shall perform other official duties  
22 assigned by the chief district court judge."

23 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 7A-347 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 7A-347. Assistants for administrative and victim and witness services.**

25 Assistant for administrative and victim and witness services positions are established  
26 under the district attorneys' offices. Each prosecutorial district is allocated at least one  
27 assistant for administrative and victim and witness services to be employed by the  
28 district attorney. The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall allocate  
29 additional assistants to prosecutorial districts on the basis of need and within available  
30 appropriations. determine the number of additional assistants for each prosecutorial  
31 district and shall determine the salaries of all assistants, as provided in Article 29B of  
32 this Chapter. Each district attorney may also use any volunteer or other personnel to  
33 assist the assistant. The assistant is responsible for coordinating efforts of the  
34 law-enforcement and judicial systems to assure that each victim and witness is provided  
35 fair treatment under Article 45 of Chapter 15A, Fair Treatment for Victims and  
36 Witnesses and shall also provide administrative and legal support to the district  
37 attorney's office."

38 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 7A-355 reads as rewritten:

39 "**§ 7A-355. Trial court administrators.**

40 ~~The following districts or sets of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall have~~  
41 ~~trial court administrators: Set of districts 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D; District 22 and District~~  
42 ~~28, and such other districts or sets of districts as may be designated by the~~  
43 ~~Administrative Office of the Courts. The office of trial court administrator is~~  
44 established. The superior court districts and sets of districts as defined in

1 G.S. 7A-41.1(a) to be served by trial court administrators shall be determined by the  
2 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this  
3 Chapter. A trial court administrator may employ supporting staff to assist in carrying  
4 out the trial court administrator's duties when such positions are established by the  
5 Director pursuant to Article 29A of this Chapter. The salaries of the trial court  
6 administrators and support staff shall be determined by the Director."

7 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 7A-377 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 "(e) The Commission may employ supporting staff to assist it in carrying out its  
9 duties when such positions are established by the Director of the Administrative Office  
10 of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of this Chapter. The salaries of the executive  
11 secretary and other supporting staff shall be determined by the Director."

12 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 7A-414 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 7A-414. Executive ~~Secretary; secretary; clerical support.~~**

14 The Conference may employ an executive ~~secretary and any necessary supporting~~  
15 staff to assist it in carrying out its duties. ~~secretary.~~ The Conference may employ  
16 supporting staff to assist it in carrying out its duties when such positions are established  
17 by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, as provided in Article 29B of  
18 this Chapter. The salaries of the executive secretary and other supporting staff shall be  
19 determined by the Director."

20 **SECTION 20.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.